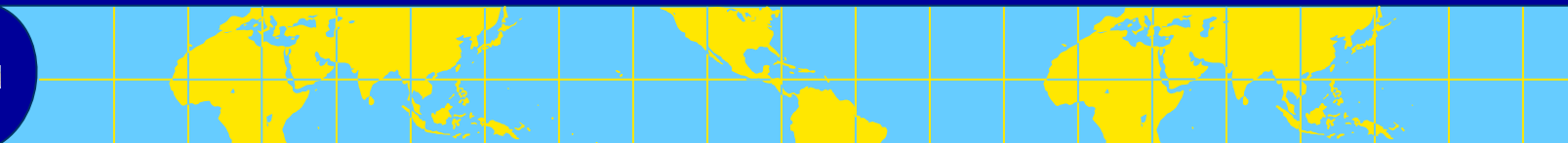
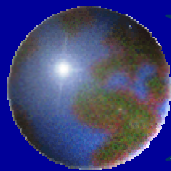


# Refugee Admissions Update

Jennifer Cochran

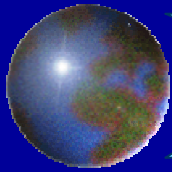
Refugee and Immigrant Health Program

Department of Public Health



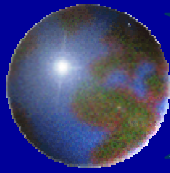
## 9.9 million refugees (12/31/2006, UNHCR)





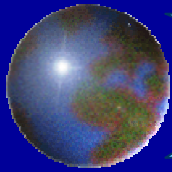
# Key Agencies Involved with Refugee Resettlement

- International
  - UNHCR: United Nations High Commission for Refugees
  - IOM: International Organization for Migration
- Federal
  - Department of State
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - Office of Refugee Resettlement (HHS)
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



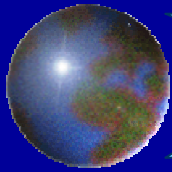
# Additional Public-Private Partners

- Voluntary Resettlement Agencies (VOLAGs) – national, local affiliates
- Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs)
- State Refugee Coordinators
  - Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants
- Refugee Health Programs
- Local public health departments and health care providers



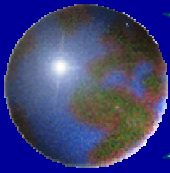
# US Admissions Priorities

- Process outlined in Refugee Act of 1980
  - Annual Report to Congress includes
    - Overview of situation
    - Admissions priorities
    - Budget
- Priority 1: Individual cases
- Priority 2: Groups
- Priority 3: Individual family reunion cases



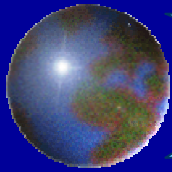
# Priority 2 Refugee Populations

- Iraqis
- Burmese
- Bhutanese
- Burundians
- Iranian Religious Minorities
- Sudanese Darfurians in Iraq



# Priority 3 Countries (Family Reunification)

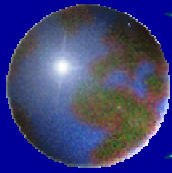
- Africa
  - Burundi
  - Congo (Brazzaville)
  - Democratic Republic of Congo
  - Eritrea
  - Ethiopia
  - Rwanda
  - Somalia
  - Sudan
- East Asia
  - Burma (Myanmar)
  - Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Europe & Central Asia
  - Uzbekistan
- Latin America & Caribbean
  - Colombia
  - Cuba
  - Haiti
- Near East & South Asia
  - Afghanistan
  - Iran
  - Iraq



# FY08 - Africa: 16,000

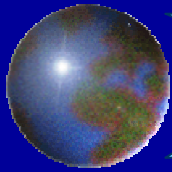
- East Africa
  - Disabled, long-term refugees in Kenya
  - Eritreans, Sudanese in Ethiopia
  - Somalis in Kenya
  - “1972” Burundians in Tanzania
  - Sudanese (from Darfur) in Iraq
- West Africa
  - Liberian cases
  - Congolese in Gabon





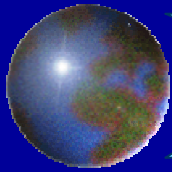
# FY08 - East Asia: 20,000

- Burmese in Thailand, Malaysia
  - Karen, Chin
- Vietnamese via the Humanitarian Resettlement Initiative in Vietnam



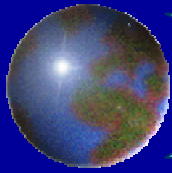
# FY08 – Europe and Central Asia: 3,000

- Individuals processed under Lautenberg guidelines (in-country processing)
- Uzbekistan added to Priority 3 country list



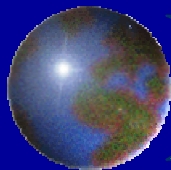
# FY08 - Latin America & Caribbean: 3,000

- Cubans eligible for Priority 2 in-country processing
- Priority 1 Colombians
- Small number Priority 3 family reunion cases



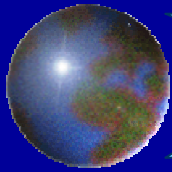
# FY 08 - Near East & South Asia: 28,000

- Vulnerable Iraqis
- Bhutanese in Nepal
- Iranian religious and ethnic minorities



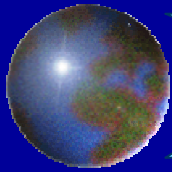
# Admissions 2007 - Ceilings 2008

Region	2007 Admitted	2008 Ceiling	YTD 08 (5/21/08)
Africa	17,482	16,000	5,395
East Asia	15,643	20,000	8,442
Europe & C Asia	4,561	3,000	1,389
Latin Am & Caribbean	2,976	3,000	2,445
Nr East & South Asia	7,619	28,000	8,835
Regional Subtotal	48,281	70,000	
Unallocated		10,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,281</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>26,506</b>



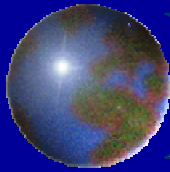
# Special Immigrant Status

- Under federal law, Special Immigrant Visas granted to Afghan and Iraqi nationals whose connections to USG results in serious threat
  - Up to 500 translators per year (FY07-FY08)
  - Up to 5,000 Iraqi nationals employed by USG or contractor (5 years starting FY08)
  - Immediate family members can accompany; numbers do not count against the 500/5,000
- Eligible for refugee benefits and services
  - Iraqi – 8 months from date of entry
  - Afghan – 6 months from date of entry



# What about Massachusetts?

- Overall *refugee* numbers have decreased in recent years
- New populations
  - Karen Burmese
  - Chin Burmese
  - Burundian
  - Bhutanese
- Access to care challenges –
  - New populations are not joining a resident ethnic community
  - Increasing diversity combined with small numbers
  - Unique culture and language needs
  - Migration → Resettlement and effects on health and well-being



# Acknowledgements and References

- Report to Congress – on web at [www.state.gov/g/prm](http://www.state.gov/g/prm)
- Office of Refugee Resettlement [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/)
- Refugee Processing Center [www.wrapsnet.org](http://www.wrapsnet.org)
- Dina Dajani, formerly with HHS, Office of Global Health Affairs
- CDC, Division of Global Migration and Quarantine [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq)